

# Causes of the Civil War

To what extent did Northerners  
“nullify” the Fugitive Slave Act?

# During Civil War

- North said it fought to preserve the Union
- South said it fought to preserve slavery

# After Civil War 1890s

- Daughters of the Confederacy (led by Robert E. Lee's daughter) fought to change the historiography of American textbooks.
  - Abolitionists were crazy.
  - Enslaved people were happy.
  - War was fought over state's rights.
  - Reconstruction was a failure because freed people were corrupt.

# States' Rights argument

- South had slavery
- North wanted to take slavery away

# South always fighting for state's rights

- Evidence: Nullification Crisis of 1832
  - “nullify” (make void, refused to obey law)
  - South Carolina nullified national Tariff (called tariff of Abominations as very high)
    - Andrew Jackson signed Force Bill, threatened to send army
    - S.C. backed down
    - A.J. convinced Congress to lower tariffs.

# BUT

- 1. North NEVER tried to take slavery away from areas where established.
  - **Abraham Lincoln First inaugural Address** (*abridged*)
  - *Fellow-Citizens of the United States:*

Apprehension seems to exist among the people of the Southern States that by the accession of a Republican Administration their property and their peace and personal security are to be endangered. There has never been any reasonable cause for such apprehension. Indeed, the most ample evidence to the contrary has all the while existed and been open to their inspection. It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that—*I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so.*

# Lincoln's First Inaugural, cont'd

- Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations and had never recanted them; and more than this, they placed in the platform for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read:
- *Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.....*

## 2. North has a history of fighting for state's rights more than South

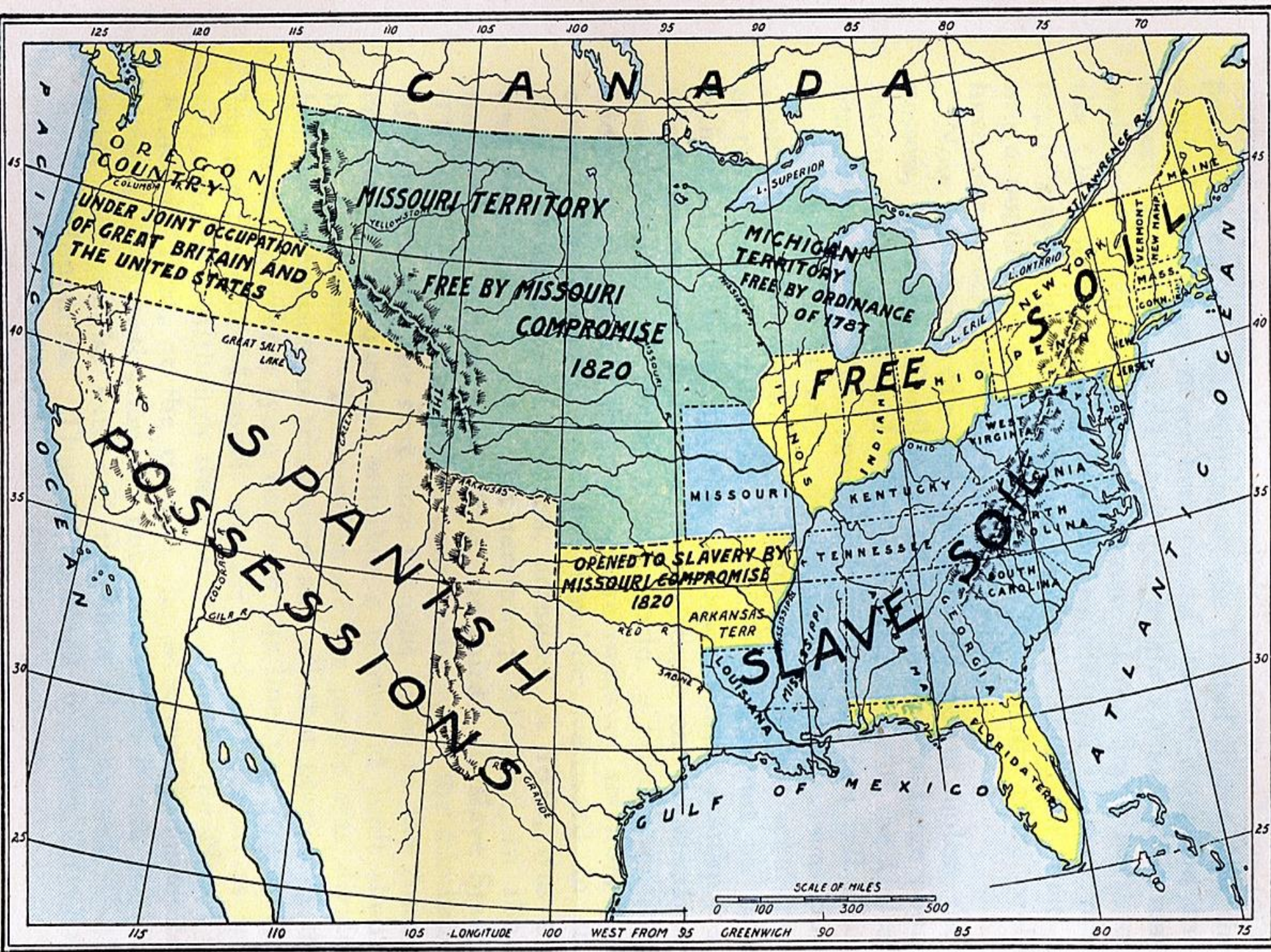
- Shay's Rebellion
- Whiskey Rebellion (mountain South, not plantation)
- Hartford Convention
- Refusal of New York to invade Canada in War of 1812



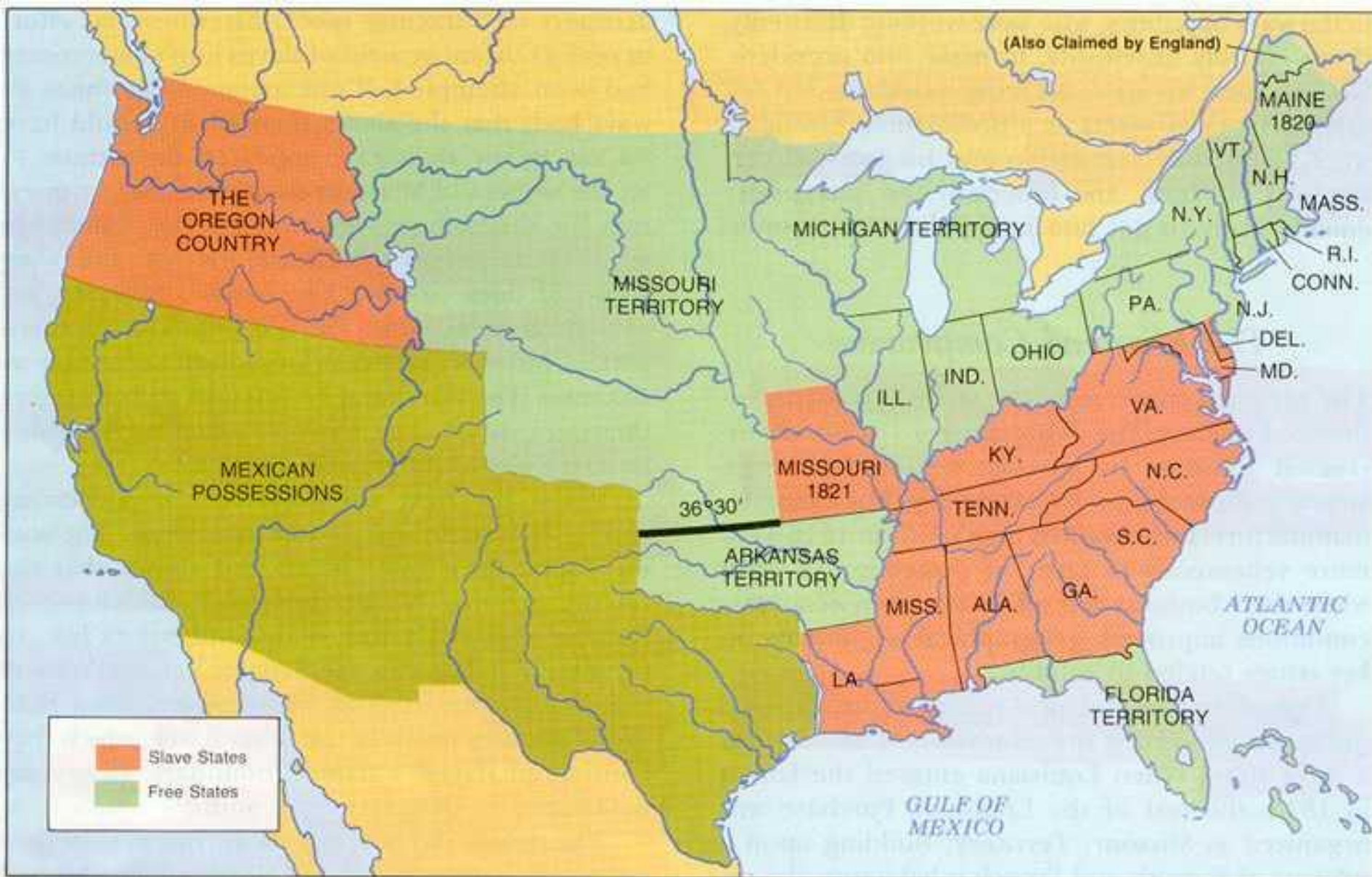
### 3. South is AGGRESSIVE in its attempts to spread slavery

- Missouri Compromise
- Texas Independence
- Mexican War
- Ostend Manifesto 1854 – secret agreement written in Ostend, Belgium to buy Cuba from Spain as a slave state
- “Young Americans” -conquer Latin America for slavery









THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE, 1820-1821

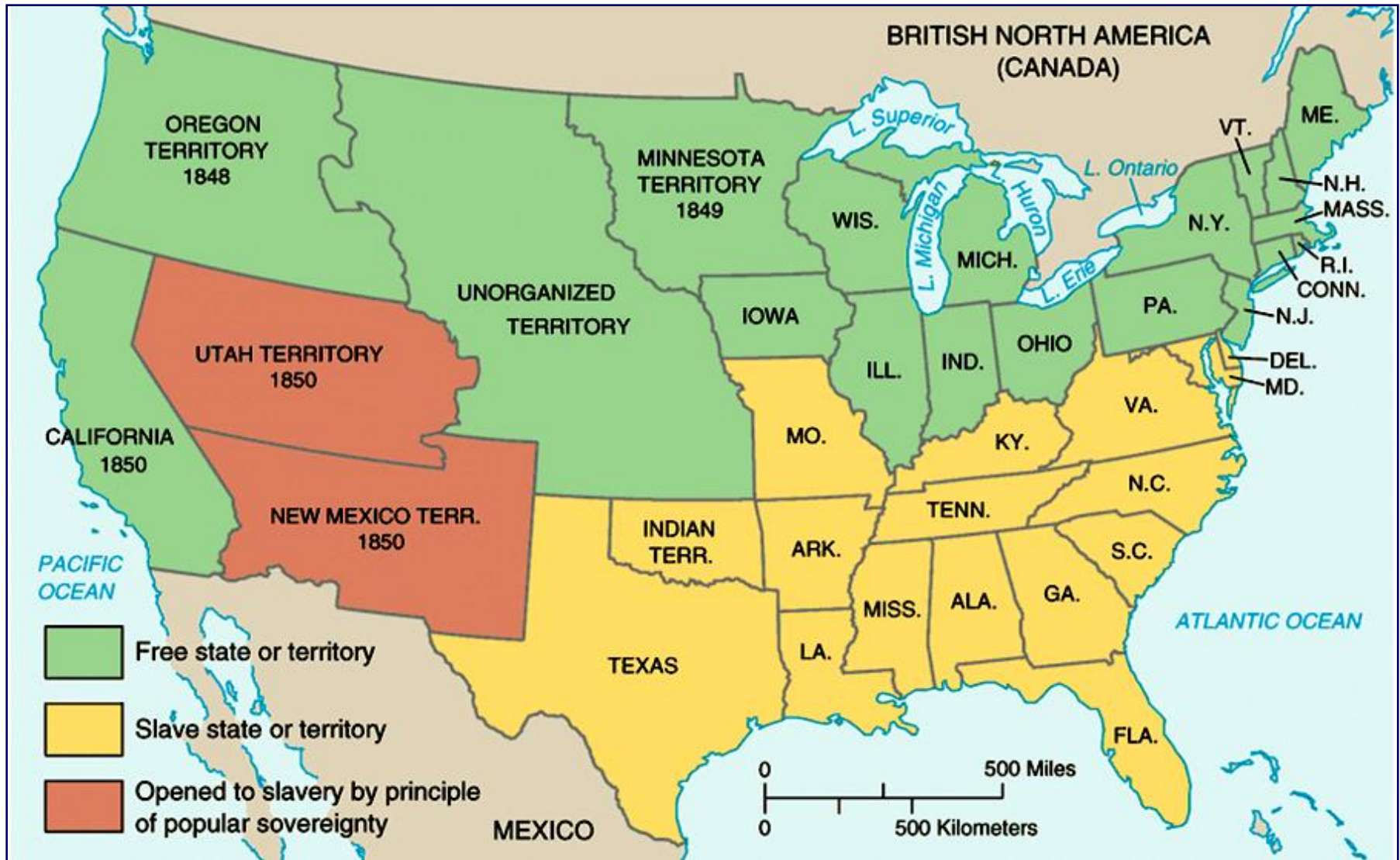
## 4. South sacrificed civil liberties to preserve slavery

- May not emancipate own slaves
- Must carry gun
- May not teach slaves to read
- Abolitionist newspapers may not be delivered by federal mail

# 5. North defends state's rights

- Compromise of 1850
  - California a free state
  - Territories of Utah and New Mexico to decide by popular sovereignty
  - No slave trade in District of Columbia
  - Strengthened Fugitive Slave Act
    - \$1,000 fine / 6 months jail for helping

# Compromise of 1850



# Against Fugitive Slave Act

- Canada offers freedom
- Harriet Beecher Stowe writes “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”
- Many northerners support Underground Railroad





**Harriet  
Beecher  
Stowe  
(1811 – 1896)**

*So this is the lady who started  
the Civil War.*

*-- Abraham Lincoln*



# BOOTH War

- Sherman Booth helped Joshua Glover escape
- Wisconsin declared F.S. A. null and void
- Supreme Court “Ableman vs. Booth” found Wisconsin unconstitutional
- Wisconsin shrugs



# Northern nullification

- **South Carolina Defines the Causes of Secession**  
(1860) unknown

. . . . We assert that fourteen of the states have deliberately refused for years past to fulfill their constitutional obligations, and we refer to their own statutes for the proof. The Constitution of the United States, in its 4th Article, provides as follows: *"No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up, on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."*